

7 a rotatable combined connector secured to the proximal end of the operative
8 element, said combined connector comprising a data/information connector and a mechanical
9 connector; and said combined connector comprising an angled rotary alignment surface that is
10 adapted to blind mate with a corresponding connector of a drive unit that has an angled rotary
11 alignment surface.

1 2. (As filed) The catheter assembly according to claim 1 wherein said
2 data/information connector comprises an electrical connector.

1 3. (As filed) The catheter assembly according to claim 1 wherein said
2 mechanical connector comprises a rotary drive connector.

1 4. (Once Amended) The catheter assembly according to claim 3 wherein
2 said rotary drive connector comprises a drive surface which simultaneously extends axially and
3 circumferentially.

1 5. (As filed) The catheter assembly according to claim 1 wherein said
2 combined connector comprises a rotary alignment surface.

1 6. (As filed) The catheter assembly according to claim 1 wherein said
2 elongate operative element comprises an imaging cable having an image element at said distal
3 end thereof.

1 7. (As filed) The catheter assembly according to claim 1 wherein said initial
2 section comprises a metal tube.

1 8. (As filed) The catheter assembly according to claim 1 further comprising
2 a fluid seal between said proximal portion of said sheath and the initial section of the elongate
3 operative element.

1 9. (Once Amended) The catheter system according to claim 1 wherein said
2 elongate operative element comprises a flexible imaging core and a relatively stiff tube at the
3 proximal end thereof to create a relatively stiff initial section of the elongate operative element
4 extending from the proximal end thereof.